

Chairmen, Honorable FCC personnel;

I have a question or a few for you all...

Why does a multi-billion dollar industry, one of the most successful human enterprises, need to legislate its way to guaranteed future success?

These organizations take billions of dollars of everyone's money for a product that is while increasingly technically sophisticated steadily becoming more and more inferior to what they offered in the past - and at much lower costs.

And while making ever greater profits year in and year out, they cry foul of people doing with their product what it was designed for - viewing, and sharing, commenting and demonstrating.

I swear the pile of figurative crap that is piling up (it seems daily almost) from the content / intellectual property industries and their interaction with our grand world-wide bureaucracy is getting so deep pretty soon I'll need to upgrade from shovel to back-hoe.

We have certain "American" traditions in the country (a few of which are backed by Constitutional guarantee...) that had best be remembered and even enforced.

We are "The People"...

We established a form of government that understands and is beholden to our free choices in our lives.

We choose our political leaders by vote.

We choose our economic prosperity by enterprise and purchasing power.

And we choose what to do in the privacy and sanctity of our homes and private residences.

(Accepting of course that no one is harmed or mistreated against their will and certain elements that benefit the public trust of American citizens is maintained...)

Why do these content organizations think they can tell us what to do with the devices and systems in our very private homes?

How about this - tell the individuals that run the content providers and constituent organizations that you are going to establish an agency that will send agents to their private residences to tell them what they can watch and when, when they can run water, what devices they can power with electricity and what they can do with their personal free time!

I bet they would collectively have a conniption and protest till they are blue in the face.

Then again I have digressed - that is not a recommendation to help solve the issue.

I have a great idea - we have this wonderful mass communication system connecting millions of Americans all across the land - it is called the internet.

Why not have a poll - ask your bosses, the American Citizens of this Nation what they want!

And then do it.

But then I think following the will of the people (made by educated decision of course) should be the unwritten law of the land.

Just my 2 cents.

-Mr. Roy

cut & paste below this line...

-----

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I urge you to deny the MPAA's request seeking waiver of Section 76.1903 of the Commission's rules. This waiver would allow studios to engage in "selectable output control," or "SOC." SOC would let Hollywood decide remotely which outputs I could use on the cable box and recording devices in my home. The waiver would take freedom away from people using these devices, would restrict people using free (as in freedom) software like MythTV to make and watch recordings, and would set a dangerous precedent against the public's interest.

People have a basic right to not be controlled by the technology they use. Hollywood and set-top box manufacturers already violate this right by imposing Digital Restrictions Management (DRM) and proprietary software on the public. If you granted the waiver, you would be giving them even more power to trample on our rights.

Now that audio and video are a natural part of how people communicate, the ability to record, archive, share, and remix audio and video is essential to free speech, political debate and cultural participation. Hollywood and the MPAA are pushing these restrictions because they want a world where they are free to communicate with us, but where we cannot freely communicate with each other. The FCC represents the public, not Hollywood. Don't give them more power to restrict our freedom to use media or to participate in politics and culture.

As I understand it, the FCC also considers things like convenience, affordability, and economic impact in making its decisions. Other people have presented you with persuasive evidence that SOC will needlessly inconvenience viewers, will unfairly require the purchase of new equipment in order to watch certain movies, and will raise the price of basic equipment. But these questions should not even be considered when the cost is the public's freedom. Even if Hollywood does find a cost-effective and convenient way to enforce these restrictions, they should still be rejected.

I urge you to deny Hollywood's waiver request.

Sincerely,